

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-09 ISO-00 AGR-10 OES-07 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0883
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4294

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR, OCON, AR
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFD) SESSION

REF: STATE 117059

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY BERGLAND

1. THIS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE ARGENTINE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, MARIO A. CADENAS MADARIAGA, IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER CONTAINED IN STATE 117059 FROM SECRETARY BERGLAND. THE ORIGINAL LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO SECRETARY BERLAND VIA DAVID HUME ADMINISTRATOR OF FAS. THE FOLLOWING IS A FREE-TRANSLATION:

DEAR MR. BERGLAND:
I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER DATED MAY 23, WHICH I HASTEN TO RESPOND TO DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT ARE RAISED. I AGREE THAT THE MANILA MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, SUCH AS THE INCREASING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PRODUCTION, AND REDUCING MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER IN THE WORLD. I ALSO AGREE THAT IN ORDER FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO CARRY ON THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT IT IS ASSIGNED, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE THESE SUBJECTS PRACTICALLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY. I ALSO CONCUR IN NOT DELEGATING DECISIONS TO DRAFTING GROUPS. WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA, I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING: THEME: INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE:
1.1. TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN COUNTRIES THAT DUE

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1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE:
1.1. TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN COUNTRIES THAT DUE

TO THEIR COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN OTHERS, THUS GUARANTEEING AND ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLY, GOOD QUALITY AND LOW COST.

COUNTRIES WITH MALNUTRITION AND DEFICITS IN FOOD PRODUCTION

1.2. TO SOLICIT ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION OF ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DIRECTED TO INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER - OR THE GENERAL ECONOMIC CAPACITY TO BUY FOOD IN THOSE COUNTRIES WITH MALNUTRITION AND FOOD PRODUCTION DEFICIENCIES. CONDITION THIS COOPERATION TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF PROGRAMS THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY DEVELOP FOOD PRODUCTION OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE PART OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

1.3. TO DETERMINE THOSE COUNTRIES WITH FOOD DEFICITS AND PREPARE CONCRETE AND INTEGRATED PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THESE COUNTRIES.

1.4. TO DEVELOP IN THESE SAME COUNTRIES MINERAL, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EFFICIENT FOOD PRODUCTION DOES NOT EXIST.

1.5. COMMON RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CAPACITY AS MEASURED BY GNP.

1.6. PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES WITH FOOD DEFICITS OF ADOPTING THE ABOVE CITED PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION.

2. FOOD SECURITY

2.1. TO DECIDE THE FORMATION OF A WORLD GRAIN RESERVE, ESPECIALLY WHEAT, EQUAL TO THE SURPLUSES THAT EXIST TODAY, BASED ON THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DETERMINED AT A RATE OF ONE MIL PER GNP.

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2.2. TO AGREE ON A MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PRICE RANGE WITHIN WHICH THE FOOD RESERVE COULD BE SOLD.

2.3. TO CREATE A FOOD RESERVE FOR OTHER PRODUCTS REGISTERING LOW PRICE LEVELS (GRAINS IN GENERAL, SUGAR AND MEAT).

2.4. THE POSITION OF THESE RESERVES WITHIN THE NORMS THAT ARE AGREED UPON WILL BE THE DECISION OF THE COUNTRIES THAT ESTABLISH THEM.

3. FOOD AID

3.1. THE FOOD AID GRANTED BY ANY COUNTRY SHOULD BE WITHIN THE AGREEMENT AND NORMS AGREED UPON, WHICH SHOULD ANTICIPATE THE AMOUNTS AND VOLUMES OF THE SAME, DELIVERY CONDITIONS AND THE IMPACT THAT (THIS AID) MIGHT HAVE ON THE WORLD FOOD MARKETS.

3.2. THE FOOD AID SHOULD CONSIST IN PROVIDING BASIC FOOD OF WHICH CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE LACKING, BUT SHOULD ALSO BE DIRECTED TO SOLVE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS THAT EXIST IN ORDER TO BETTER BENEFIT PRESENT AVAILABLE FOOD RESOURCES AND THOSE THAT ARE PROVIDED.

FORMING PART OF THIS RESPONSIBILITIES IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FOOD FORMS THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF LOW COST INPUTS,

THE COMBINATION OF PRODUCTS OF DIFFERENT ORIGINS (VEGETABLE, ANIMAL, MINERAL, AND LOW COST PACKAGING AND CONSERVATION, WHICH COULD FURNISH ADEQUATE AND INTEGRAL FOOD TO COUNTRIES WITH LESS RESOURCES. THIS SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION SYSTEMS IN THESE COUNTRIES.

THE PROGRAMS OF SIMPLE AID RESOLVE SHORT-TERM SITUATIONS, BUT NOT THE FACTORS OR STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF INSUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLIES.

3.3. FOOD AID SHOULD BE GRANTED TO THE NEEDIEST COUNTRIES BASE ON AGREEMENTS WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE OBLIGATIONS FOR PRODUCTION PROGRAMS AS WELL AS FOR PROGRAMS FOR DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION OF FOOD.

4. NUTRITION

4.1. TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE FOOD PROBLEM, A WORLD NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS IS NEEDED BY COUNTRIES AND TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS THE BEST ECONOMIC WAY OF SUPPLYING IT. THIS ANALYSIS
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SIS COULD BE PART OF THE FOOD AID FOR THE NEEDIEST COUNTRIES. TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE MANILA MINISTERIAL MEETING, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD ADD AN ADDITIONAL SUBJECT:

5. GUARANTEES AND SECURITIES FOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING.

5.1. IF FOOD IS AN ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHT AND ITS SATISFACTION IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING, THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SHOULD COUNSEL AGAINST THOSE POLICIES THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE NORMAL CONDITIONS OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF THESE PRODUCTS. THESE POLICIES ARE AMONG OTHERS, INSUFFICIENT PRICES, DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT, IMPORT LIMITATIONS AND/OR SUBSIDIES TO PRODUCTION AND FOOD EXPORTS.

THIS SUBJECT COULD ALSO BE TREATED - PARTIALLY - BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS GATT AND UNCTAD, OR IN OTHER MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL FORUMS, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED AT THIS MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, DUE TO OUR HIGH RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER WORLD FOOD SUPPLY AND THEREFORE TO MORE ADEQUATELY RESOLVE THE MALNUTRITION PROBLEMS.

WITHIN THESE IDEAS, THE REPUBLIC AND ARGENTINA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE, WITHIN THE LINES OF ITS ECONOMIC CAPACITY, FOR DEALING BASICALLY WITH THOSE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA EXPERIENCING FOOD DEFICITS.

VERY CORDIAL GREETINGS,

MARIO A. CENAS MADARIAGA

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

2. SECRETARY CADENAS IN DISCUSSING THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE STATED THAT HE BASICALLY SUPPORTED THE U.S. EFFORTS AS OUTLINED IN SECRETARY BERGLAND'S

LETTER, THAT HE FELT THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT
A LEVEL BEFITTING MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND THAT HIS
LETTER ABOVE WAS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE PRINCIPLES TO BE
FOLLOWED.

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